World Bridge Tour
THIS IS HOW WE PLAY

Online Contract Bridge League

OCBL JOURNAL

Issue N. 138. Tuesday, 28 September, 2021

OCBL OPEN LEAGUE: THE FINAL WILL BE SKALMAN vs BLACK

OCBL OPEN LEAGUE RESULTS

SEMIFINALS

Bridge42 (+6.1)	7 IMPs TOTAL: 13.1	37 IMPs TOTAL: 37	Skalman
OPEN ROOM N: G. Kemény S: P. Trenka	CLOSED ROOM E: T. Szalka W: C. Czímer	OPEN ROOM E: N. Warne W: K. Ahlesved	CLOSED ROOM N: G. Elmroth S: P. Eliasson

SCORE: https://webutil.bridgebase.com/v2/tview.php?t=47883-1632770074

Fredin (+3.1)	35 IMPs TOTAL: 38.1	47 IMPs TOTAL: 47	Black
OPEN ROOM N: P. Fredin S: J. Sylvan	CLOSED ROOM E: J. Bennet W: T. Andersson	OPEN ROOM E: A. McIntosh W: P. Bertheau	CLOSED ROOM N: G. Hallberg S: S. Hult

SCORE: https://webutil.bridgebase.com/v2/tview.php?t=47882-1632770070

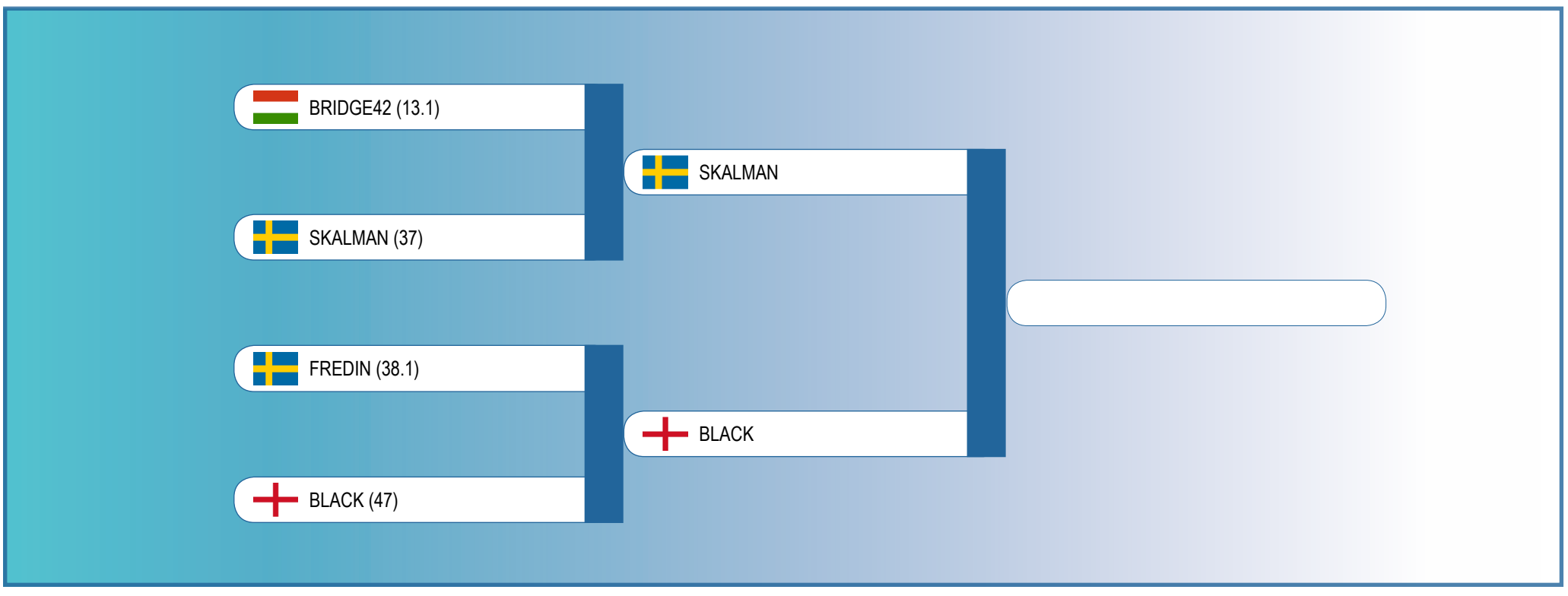
Yesterday the Semifinal of the OCBL Open League was played.

Team **Bridge42** faced team **Skalman**, while team **Fredin** faced team **Black**.
The match between Bridge42 and Skalman ended 37-13.1 IMPs for the Swedish team.
The match between Fredin and Black ended 47-38.1 IMPs for the English team.

Congratulations to the Finalists:
Black: Black A. (boggis), Gold D. (dagold), McIntosh A. (mcintosh), Paske T. (thomas1000), Hult S. (hultahult), Hallberg G. (rerack), Bertheau P. (Pbertheau)

Skalman: Ahlesved K. (kruska), Warne N. (nikwar2), Elmroth G. (Turnip1), Eliasson P. (PGEliasson), Fallenius B. (Bf88), Nilsland M. (Nilsland), Karlsson T. (Charlie99), Sandin A. (stridsvagn)

The Final will be played in two rounds on Wednesday and Thursday.



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OCBL
UPCOMING EVENTS

OCTOBER CUP
18 - 21 October, 2021

		CEST	EDT
Qualification:	Monday 18 October	16.00 - 18.00 - 20.00	10.00 - 12.00 - 14.00
	Tuesday 19 October	16.00 - 18.00 - 20.00	10.00 - 12.00 - 14.00
	Wednesday 20 October	16.00 - 18.00 - 20.00	10.00 - 12.00 - 14.00
KO:	Thursday 21 October	16.00 - 18.30 - 21.00	10.00 - 12.30 - 15.00

OPEN LEAGUE
25 October - 18 November, 2021

		CEST	EDT
Every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday at:		21.15	15.15
Qualification:	9 Rounds		
KO:	3 Rounds		

OPEN SUPER CUP
22 - 27 November, 2021

		CEST	EDT
Qualification:	Monday 22 November	16.00 - 18.00 - 20.00	10.00 - 12.00 - 14.00
	Tuesday 23 November	16.00 - 18.00 - 20.00	10.00 - 12.00 - 14.00
	Wednesday 24 November	16.00 - 18.00 - 20.00	10.00 - 12.00 - 14.00
	Thursday 25 November	16.00 - 18.00 - 20.00	10.00 - 12.00 - 14.00
KO:	Friday 26 November	16.00 - 17.45 - 19.30 - 21.15	10.00 - 11.45 - 13.30 - 15.15
	Saturday 27 November	16.00 - 18.00 - 20.00	10.00 - 12.00 - 14.00

DECEMBER CUP
20 - 23 December, 2021

		CEST	EDT
Qualification:	Monday 20 December	16.00 - 18.00 - 20.00	10.00 - 12.00 - 14.00
	Tuesday 21 December	16.00 - 18.00 - 20.00	10.00 - 12.00 - 14.00
	Wednesday 22 December	16.00 - 18.00 - 20.00	10.00 - 12.00 - 14.00
KO:	Thursday 23 December	16.00 - 18.30 - 21.00	10.00 - 12.30 - 15.00

REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

https://www.ocbl.org/registration/

‘And its Live!’

by Mark Horton

I have always been full of admiration for football commentators (especially Brazilian ones, who can make a goal sound like the detonation of an atomic bomb!). Even though in the modern era the players have their names on their shirts I am always amazed that they are able to identify the players on the ball so easily. Football lends itself to punditry and there have been many memorable comments through the years. The famous ones include Bill Shankly’s ‘Somebody said that football's a matter of life and death to you, I said 'listen, it's more important than that'.’ Alan Hansen’s ‘You can’t win anything with kids.’ , epitomizing the rivalry between Liverpool and Manchester United. Kenneth Wolstenholme’s ‘They think it’s all over. It is now.’, is a part of English football lore while Brian Clough’s ‘I wouldn’t say I was the top manager in the business but I would say I was in the top one.’, is the stuff of legends.

In pre Covid times bridge reporters would watch a match (sometimes actually sitting at the table) and then write it up afterwards. Post pandemic with most events being played online a new techniques have been developed; reporters (sometimes covering three events on the same day) are now experimenting with typing up deals as they happen. That way copy can be delivered to anxious editors almost as soon as a match has finished. (One problem is that you sometimes have to expend time discovering who is playing! P_Fredin is ideal, but a lot of players hide behind a Harry Potteresque ‘cloak of invisibility’ by using a handle such as ‘private’.) It is not without risk, as it is all too easy to miss an analytical point (and there is no VAR to save you!).

When Manchester City won the Premier League in 2012 by virtue of scoring twice in stoppage time in their final march of the season Martin Tyler was moved to comment ‘I swear you’ll never see anything like this again.’ He is one of Sky’s presenters and he always ends his match-day introductions with the words that form my title.

By now the reader may becoming impatient, so here are the highlights from the OCBL semifinals - ‘And its Live!’

Board 2. Dealer East. NS Vul.

	♠ A ♡ K J 7 6 ♢ Q 10 8 3 ♣ J 7 3 2	
♠ 10 4 2 ♡ 8 ♢ A K J 9 6 2 ♣ K Q 9		♠ J 7 6 5 ♡ 9 5 4 2 ♢ 7 4 ♣ A 5 4
	♠ K Q 9 8 3 ♡ A Q 10 3 ♢ 5 ♣ 10 8 6	

Bridge 42 v Skalman

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Ahlesved	*Kemeny*	*Warne*	*Trenka*
—	—	Pass	1♠
2♢	Dble*	Pass	2♡
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♡
All Pass			

West led the ♢A and when East followed with the four he switched to the ♣K and East#s ♣5 saw him continue with the queen. I wondered if East might emulate Forquet and overtake with the ace, but he avoided that pitfall and ket his ace for the next round of the suit, -100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Czímer	*Elmroth*	*Szalka*	*Eliasson*
—	—	Pass	1♠
2♢	Dble*	Pass	2♡
3♢	4♡	All Pass	

Here too West led the ♢A, but he switched to the ♡8 and declarer won with the ten, played a spade to the ace, ruffed a diamond, cashed the top spades pitching clubs, ruffed a spade and then cross-ruffed diamonds and spades for +620 and 12 IMPs.

Fredin v Black

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Bertheau	*Fredin*	*McIntosh*	*Sylvan*
—	—	Pass	1♠
2♢	Dble*	Pass	2♡
All Pass			

West led the ♢A and switched to the ♣K, following it with the queen. Once again East withheld the ace, +140.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Andersson	*Hallberg*	*Bennet*	*Hult*
—	—	Pass	1♠
2♢	Dble*	Pass	2♡
Pass	2NT	Pass	3♡
All Pass			

2NT ‘Could still have 4♡, may have three’

West led the ♢A and switched to the ♡8, +170 and an IMP.

Board 3. Dealer South. EW Vul.

	♠ Q 4 3 ♡ A 5 4 ♢ J 10 7 2 ♣ Q J 10	
♠ 2 ♡ K 10 9 8 7 2 ♢ K ♣ A K 6 5 3		♠ A J 8 7 5 ♡ 6 ♢ A 9 6 5 ♣ 9 7 4
	♠ K 10 9 6 ♡ Q J 3 ♢ Q 8 4 3 ♣ 8 2	

Bridge 42 v Skalman

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Ahlesved	*Kemeny*	*Warne*	*Trenka*
—	—	—	Pass
1♡	Pass	1♠	Pass
3♣*	Pass	5♣	All Pass

3♣ 6♡ 5♣

North led the ♢J and declarer won with the king, played a spade to dummy’s ace and a heart for the three, king and ace. North belatedly switched to the ♣Q and declarer won with the ace, ruffed a heart, ruffed a spade and played the ♡10, North following with the five. When declarer pitched a diamond from dummy South ruffed and North’s ♣J10 represented the setting trick, -100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Czímer	*Elmroth*	*Szalka*	*Eliasson*
—	—	—	Pass
1♡	Pass	1♠	Pass
3♡	All Pass		

North led the ♣Q and declarer won with the ace and played the ♡2, South winning with the jack and returning the ♣2. Declarer took the king and played the ♡K, North winning and cashing the ♣J, +140 and a 6 IMP swing.

Fredin v Black

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Bertheau	*Fredin*	*McIntosh*	*Sylvan*
—	—	—	Pass
1♡	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣*	Pass	2♡	Pass
3♡	Pass	4♡	All Pass

2♣ Natural

North led the ♣Q and declarer won with the ace, played a spade to dummy’s ace and the ♡6. When South played the queen declarer’s problem in the trump suit was resolved and he lost only two hearts and a club, +620.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Andersson	*Hallberg*	*Bennet*	*Hult*
—	—	—	Pass
1♡	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	All Pass		

Gunnar Hallberg

North led the ♣Q and declarer won with the ace, unblocked the ♢K, crossed to the ♠A and played a heart for the queen, king and ace. North continued with the ♣10 and declarer won and discarded a spade on the ♡10, +130 but a 10 IMP loss.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

	♠ 7 ♡ K J 10 9 6 3 ♢ 6 5 4 ♣ 10 6 3	
♠ J 9 3 2 ♡ A 8 7 ♢ A Q 8 ♣ Q 8 2		♠ Q 6 ♡ 4 2 ♢ J 9 3 ♣ K J 9 7 5 4
	♠ A K 10 8 5 4 ♡ Q 5 ♢ K 10 7 2 ♣ A	

Bridge 42 v Skalman
Open Room

West	North	East	South
Ahlesved	*Kemeny*	*Warne*	*Trenka*
1♢*	1♡	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♡	3♣	4♣*
Pass	4♡	All Pass	

1♢ ‘Nebulous’
2♠ ‘F1 I think’

East led the ♣5 and declarer won perforce with dummy’s ace, pitched a diamond on the top spades and then cross-ruffed spades and clubs (ruffing high in hand) before pitching a diamond on a spade. East ruffed and switched to a diamond, West winning with the queen and continuing with the ace, North ruffing and having to lose two trump tricks to West, -100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Czímer	*Elmroth*	*Szalka*	*Eliasson*
1♢*	1♡	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♡	3♣	4♣*
Pass	4♡	All Pass	

1♢ 1+♢, 10-15, 11-14 balanced included
4♣ ‘No agreement, forcing’

East led the ♢3 and wet won with the queen and switched to the ♣2, removing a vital entry. Declarer won, cashed the top spades and then cross-ruffed spades and clubs before pitching a second diamond on an established spade. East ruffed and West’s ♡A87 were good for two tricks, -100.

Fredin v Black

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Bertheau	*Fredin*	*McIntosh*	*Sylvan*
1♣	Pass	3♣*	Dble
Pass	4♡	Pass	4♠
Dble	All Pass		

3♣ ‘Less than limit’

West led the ♣2 and declarer took East’s king with the ace and played the ♠AK10, West winning, cashing the ♠9 and exiting with the ♣Q. Declarer ruffed and played the ♡5 to dummy’s jack followed by a diamond to the king and ace. West cashed the ♡A and played the ♣8 which meant declarer was four down, -1100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Andersson	*Hallberg*	*Bennet*	*Hult*
1♣*	2♡*	Pass	4♡
All Pass			

1♣ ‘(1)2+♣ 5332/5422 possible if NTish’ (assuming my translation is accurate!)
2♡ Weak

When East led the ♠Q declarer was in with a shout. He won with dummy’s ace, unblocked the ♣A, pitched a diamond on the ♠K and ruffed a spade with the ♡3. East overruffed and returned the ♡2 and West took the ace and exited with heart, which meant declarer could not avoid -300. Nevertheless that was worth 13 IMPs.

The winning line is far from easy. Declarer must cash the second spade at trick two and then ruff a spade with the ♡6. When East cannot overruff declarer can cross to dummy’s ♣A, ruff a spade high, ruff a club, ruff a spade high and ruff a club with the ♡Q, ensuring ten tricks even if West has pitched a club and overruffs.

At half time Skalman led 17-13.1 while Fredin trailed 34-4.1.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

	♠ A 8 ♡ A 10 8 6 ♢ Q 8 4 ♣ J 6 5 4	
♠ K J 3 ♡ 5 4 2 ♢ A K 9 5 ♣ 9 8 2		♠ 5 2 ♡ Q 7 3 ♢ J 10 6 3 ♣ Q 10 7 3
	♠ Q 10 9 7 6 4 ♡ K J 9 ♢ 7 2 ♣ A K	

Bridge 42 v Skalman
Open Room

West	North	East	South
Ahlesved	*Kemeny*	*Warne*	*Trenka*
—	—	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT*	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

1NT Semi-forcing

East led the ♣3 and declarer won with dummy’s ace and played a spade to the ace (the best chance for five tricks at 58.78%) followed by a spade to the queen, West taking the king and switching to the ♢5. Declarer put up the queen, played a heart to the king and a spade, West winning and continuing with the ♢9, East winning with the ten and returning the ♢J for one down, -100.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Czímer	*Elmroth*	*Szalka*	*Eliasson*
—	—	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♠*
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

2♠ 13-15, 6♠

East led the ♣3 and having won in dummy declarer played the ♠10, putting up the ace when West followed with the three. A spade to the queen saw West win and switch to the ♢5. When the queen held declarer played a heart to the jack and a third spade, West winning and playing the ♢9. When that held he cashed the ♢AK for a flat board.

Fredin v Black

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Bertheau	*Fredin*	*McIntosh*	*Sylvan*
—	—	Pass	2♠*
All Pass			

2♠ 10-13 6+♠

West led the ♢A and switched to the ♣9. Declarer won and played a second diamond, West taking the king and eventually scoring two trump tricks, +140.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Andersson	*Hallberg*	*Bennet*	*Hult*
—	—	Pass	1♠
Pass	1NT*	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
Dble	All Pass		

West led the ♢A and switched to the ♡2, declarer taking East’s queen with the king and advancing the ♠Q, covered by the king and ace. West took the next spade and exited with the ♣2 which saw declarer win and claim the rest, +690 and 11 IMPs.

Board 15. Dealer South. NS Vul.

	♠ Q 7 ♡ 10 6 3 2 ♢ K 9 8 7 6 5 ♣ 2	
♠ K 10 9 ♡ A Q ♢ A Q J 10 4 ♣ K 4 3		♠ A 6 2 ♡ 8 5 ♢ 3 ♣ A Q 10 8 7 6 5
	♠ J 8 5 4 3 ♡ K J 9 7 4 ♢ 2 ♣ J 9	

Bridge 42 v Skalman
Open Room

West	North	East	South
Ahlesved	*Kemeny*	*Warne*	*Trenka*
—	—	—	Pass
1♣*	1♠*	2♠*	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♢*	Pass
4NT*	Pass	5♠*	Pass
7♣	All Pass		

1♣ 16+
1♠ 6+♣/♢
2♠ Game forcing, 6+♣
4♢ Cue
4NT RKCB
5♠ 2 key cards +♣Q

North led the ♣2 and declarer won with dummy’s ace, played a club to the king, cashed the ♢A, ruffed a diamond, played a spade to the king and tabled the ♢Q claiming, +1440.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Czímer	*Elmroth*	*Szalka*	*Eliasson*
—	—	—	Pass
1♣*	Pass	2♢*	Pass
2♡*	Pass	2♠*	Pass
2NT*	Pass	3♢*	Pass
3♡*	Pass	4♡*	Dble
6♣	All Pass		

1♣ Strong
2♢ 8-12, 5+♣, unbalanced
2♡ Relay
2♠ One-suiter, 6+♣
2NT Relay
3♢ Short ♢
3♡ Optional RKCB
4♡ Good hand, 2 key cards +♣Q

Declarer won the heart lead, played a club to the queen, a diamond to the ace, ruffed a diamond high and came to hand with the ♣K claiming the rest but losing 11 IMPs.

Fredin v Black

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Bertheau	*Fredin*	*McIntosh*	*Sylvan*
—	—	—	Pass
2NT	Pass	4♡*	Dble
4♠*	Pass	5♡*	Pass
6♣	Pass	6♡*	Pass
6♠	Pass	6NT	All Pass

4♡ 'Slam try in ♣'
4♠ 'We haven't discussed'
5♡ 2 key cards +♣Q
6♡ 'Don't know what this means myself'

North led the ♡3 and declarer took South's king with the ace, went to dummy with a club and played a diamond to the queen and king, claiming the rest, +990.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Andersson	*Hallberg*	*Bennet*	*Hult*
—	—	—	Pass
1♣*	Pass	2♣	Pass
2NT*	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♢*	Dble	Pass	Pass
4♡*	Pass	4♠*	Pass
4NT*	Pass	5♠*	Pass
7♣	All Pass		

1♣ (1)2+♣ any 5332/5422 possible
2NT 18-20
4♢ Cue
4♡ Cue
4♠ Cue
4NT RKCB
5♠ 2 key cards +♣Q

Declarer won the heart lead, crossed to dummy with a club, played a diamond to the ace, ruffed a diamond high and could claim, +1440 and 10 IMPs.

Board 18. Dealer East. NS Vul.

	♠ 4 3 2 ♡ A 10 7 3 ♢ K Q 5 ♣ K 10 6	
♠ A Q 9 7 6 ♡ 8 4 ♢ 10 8 3 2 ♣ 7 3		♠ 10 8 5 ♡ K Q 6 2 ♢ J 6 4 ♣ Q 5 4
	♠ K J ♡ J 9 5 ♢ A 9 7 ♣ A J 9 8 2	

Fredin v Black

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Bertheau	*Fredin*	*McIntosh*	*Sylvan*
—	—	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2♢*
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

West led the ♠7 and declarer won with the jack and played the ♣J, putting up dummy's ace and running the ten which resulted in 10 tricks, +630.

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Andersson	*Hallberg*	*Bennet*	*Hult*
—	—	Pass	1♣
1♠	Dble*	2♢*	Pass
2♡*	2♠*	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

2♢ Hearts
2♡ 'Minimum, accepting transfer, typically 2-3 hearts'
2♠ 'Interesting'

West led the ♡8 and declarer went up with dummy's ace and, searching for clues, cashed three diamonds ending in hand. He then tabled the ♣J and let it run. East won and switched to the ♠10 for the jack and queen and West cashed the ♢10 and continued with the ♡4 which saw the defenders take the rest, five down, -500 and a 15 IMP swing.

In the other match South was in 3NT at both tables, won the spade lead and played a club to the king followed by a finesse for ten tricks.

Skalman added 20 IMPs to their total in the second half, allowing their opponents not a single IMP to win by 23.9 IMPs.

Fredin scored 34 IMPs to get up to 38.1, but they gave up 13 and it was Black who advanced to the final, the margin being 8.9 IMPs.

World Bridge Tour
THIS IS HOW WE PLAY

Online Contract Bridge League

OCBL OCTOBER CUP

18 - 21 October, 2021

Qualification + Knockout

Qualification:

9 Rounds x 12 Boards	CEST	EDT
Monday 18 October	16.00 - 18.00 - 20.00	10.00 - 12.00 - 14.00
Tuesday 19 October	16.00 - 18.00 - 20.00	10.00 - 12.00 - 14.00
Wednesday 20 October	16.00 - 18.00 - 20.00	10.00 - 12.00 - 14.00

KOs:

Quarterfinals - Semifinals - Finals: 16 Boards each

	CEST	EDT
Thursday 21 October	16.00 - 18.30 - 21.00	10.00 - 12.30 - 15.00

Info and pre-registration: WWW.OCBL.ORG